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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/003,325	01/06/1998	JEFFREY L. PARKER	D-6524A	8860

7590 02/10/2005
JOSEPH S TRIPOLI
THOMSON LICENSING INC
PATENT OPERATIONS
TWO INDEPENDENCE WAY SUITE 2
PRINCETON, NJ 08540

EXAMINER

WILSON, JACQUELINE B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/003,325

Applicant(s)

PARKER ET AL.

Examiner

Jacqueline Wilson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 167-206 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 167-206 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION XI

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 08/19/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant canceled claims 109-121, 123-164 and 166 and replaced them with new claims 167-206. However, the examiner believes that the prior art is still able to read on the new claims. See rejection below.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 179 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 179 depends on a cancelled claim. The examiner will interpret this claim to depend on Claim 167. Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 205 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In line 2, "first and objects" should be changed to –first and second objects--. Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claim 206 is objected to because of the following informalities:

The claim states "wherein said circuit means". This claim is vague and indefinite since the independent claim 205 indicates that there is a first circuit means and a second circuit means. The examiner will interpret this claim as the first circuit means. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. **Claims 167, 181, 205, and 206 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Uehara (US 5,917,543).**

Regarding Claim 181, Uehara teaches controlling the field of view of each of at least first and second camera (fig. 2, 10A & 10B; also 10A/10B and 12A/12B) each camera movable to capture the image of one of at least first and second objects within a common area within the field of view of each camera (16A and 16B, as well as the users themselves being the object for viewing), each user capable of sending commands via an associated one of at least first and second control device (34A and 34B) to an automatic control system (11A & 11B, 32A & 32B, and 30A & 30B generates a control system) for controlling the field of view of each of the first and second cameras, comprising the steps of associating at least one field of view for each of the at least first and second cameras with one of the at least first and second objects (col. 5, lines 17+; although local station A is disclosed, the same teaching applies for remote station B), remembering by the automatic control system the field of view of each of the

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at least first and second cameras for each of the at least first and second objects (referred to as normal state, see fig. 3), receiving at the automatic control system a command from one of the at least first and second control devices and identifying which of the at least first and second users issued the command (this feature is inherent since after person **a** operates the operating device which sends information to the automatic control system, the camera associated with person **b** is complying), changing the field of view position of one of the at least first and second cameras to a remembered field of view for the object associated with the one of the first and second control devices that issued the command (col. 6, lines 6+).

Uehara'543 teaches that the control device in conference room A operates the camera of conference room B, and vice versa. When user "a" presses a return button (142) of the control device, the system controller remembers the previously set values from the memory (not shown), and returns the camera according to the control device that is performing remote operations (col. 10, lines 16+; see also fig. 8). Uehara '543 teaches a memory is present for storing information regarding the values for corresponding video conferencing sites (see col. 7, lines 8-15) such as values between conference room A and conference room B, conference room A and conference room C, etc. This teaching is synonymous to the limitation of remembering by the automatic control system the one of the first and second control device that issued the command.

Claim 167 is analyzed and discussed with respect to Claim 181. (See rejection of Claim 181 above.)

Regarding Claim 205, Uehara '543 teaches at least first and second cameras (fig. 2, 10A and 10B; also 10A/10B and 12A/12B; camera 10A and 12A are in a common area). Uehara teaches at least first and second control devices (34A and 34B), each controlled by first and second users (person "a" and person "b"), respectively, each user associated with a respective one of at least first and second objects (16A and 16B, as well as the users themselves being the object for viewing), automatic control means (11A & 11B, 32A & 32B, and 30A & 30B generates a control system) for adjusting field of view variables (such as pan, tilt, zoom, and focus) of the first and second camera, including first circuit means, which is inherently taught by inputting an instruction to execute an operation (see col. 5, lines 2-6) for identifying a first one of the at least first and second control device from which the automatic control means has received a command (such as panning; col. 5, lines 2+), the command including identity information indicative of the control device which sent the command (by activating a selecting switch in fig. 4 allows the identity of the user to be specified to the automatic control means such that the user can manipulate the remote camera or the local camera; see 5, lines 2+). Uehara further teaches the memory means (memory not shown; col. 10, lines 16+, col. 7, lines 5-14) remembers the identity information of the control device after the command has been received therefrom to enable the field of view to be associated with the one of the remembered field of views (col. 10, lines 16+; the amount of return button 142, in fig. 4, is associated with the controlling device issuing the command). Furthermore, Uehara'543 teaches that the automatic control system waits for the user to confirm the state of the displayed image on its monitor (col.

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11, lines 15+). This also reads on the limitation of the automatic control system remembering the identity of the control device that issued a respective command after the command has been received since the automatic control system knows which control device is issuing the command for further action.

The second circuit means and the second memory means are taught in Uehara within the automatic control system (parts 11B, 32B, and 30B). Although one teaching is disclosed (parts 11A, 32A, and 30A), it is inherent that both of the local and remote systems contain the same substance as the taught above.

Claim 206 is analyzed and discussed with respect to Claim 205 above. (See rejection of Claim 205 above.)

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 168-180, 182-190, and 193-204 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uehara (US 5,917,543) and Parker et al. (U.S. 5,471,296).**

In regards to **claim 168**, Uehara '543 fails to specifically disclose the remembering step of receiving a command from at least one user associated with a

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corresponding object to remember a field of view for the object associated with the at least one user. However, Parker teaches an automatic control system (col. 4, lines 23-30) for controlling the field of view of the camera and a control device (18) that controls the tracking, pan, tilt, etc. (See fig. 14; col. 4, lines 62- col. 5). Parker et al. '296 also disclose remembering the field of views in the remote controller (col. 2, lines 1-10). It would have been obvious to combine Parker et al. '296 in the device of Uehara '543 to improve the functions of the remote controllers, by individually controlling the camera to a predetermined position and remembering the field of view. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to receive a command from at least one user associated with a corresponding object to remember a field of view for the object associated with the at least one user.

In regards to **claim 169**, see discussion in claim 168 (181). As disclosed in claim 167, the camera can be moved to the different field of view remembered by the remote controller issuing command was discussed above.

In regards to **claim 170**, see discussion in claim 168 (181). Further, obviously when positions of the camera are remembered, it is with respect to a known reference.

In regards to **claim 171**, see discussion in claim 168 (181). Further, as can be seen in controlling the position of camera (Figure 9), both planes can be controlled. Obviously when the position of camera is remembered it is in both directions by pan and tilt.

In regards to **claim 172**, see discussion in claim 171.

In regards to **claim 173**, see discussion in claims 168 and 171.

In regards to **claim 174**, Uehara '543 shows remembering the position of the camera in two planes of different positions, and changing positions as controlled, by changing pan, tilt, zoom and focus as discussed above. However, Uehara '543 does not show remembering iris position and iris being controlled. Remembering iris settings and controlling the iris from the remote controller is well known in the art as shown by Parker et al. '296 (col. 9, lines 47+), where the iris along with zoom, focus, pan and tilt are controlled. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to also include the control of iris along with pan, tilt, zoom and focus and also remembering the iris value for different positions as shown by Parker et al. '296, in the remote control device of the video conferencing of Uehara '543, to provide iris control of the camera so that the image to be displayed will be improved.

In regards to **claim 175**, see discussion in claims 168 and 171.

In regards to **claim 176**, see discussion in claims 168 and 171. The operator may change the pan or tilt while maintaining the same zoom perspective.

Regarding **claim 177**, although not specifically stated, it would have been obvious that in video conferencing system, when another remote user decides to control a local camera, all commands from the previous remote user are overridden so that the present controller may have complete access to the camera functions. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to issue a command to override subsequent commands from other control devices affecting control of the field of view of the camera.

In regards to **claim 178**, see discussion in claim 168.

In regards to **claim 179**, see discussion in claim 168. Further, selecting one of the previously stored settings would allow any control device to recall a specific field.

In regards to **claim 180**, see discussion in claim 168. Further, receiving a command from a remote controller consistently by giving a new command will provide automatic tracking of the remote control device.

In regards to **claim 182**, see discussion in claim 181.

In regards to **claim 183**, see discussion in claim 175.

In regards to **claim 184**, see discussion in claim 181. Although not specifically stated, it is notoriously well known in the video conferencing art to enable a user to choose a specific video output signal from a camera to be displayed. (Official Notice)

In regards to **claim 185**, see discussion in claim 181.

In regards to **claim 186**, see discussion in claim 181.

In regards to **claim 187**, Uehara '543 discloses a control device for regulating the transmission of video and audio signal (28A and 28B) of a conference (see fig. 3). It would be obvious to treat the audio signal in the same manner as the operator selects to transmit and present the corresponding video signal. See also the discussion in claim 181.

In regards to **claim 188**, see discussion in claim 187.

In regards to **claim 189**, see discussion in claim 187.

In regards to **claim 190**, see discussion in claim 187.

In regards to **claim 193**, see the discussion in claim 181.

In regards to **claim 194**, see discussion in claim 168. Further, by the operator continuously selecting pan or tilt would allow for automatic tracking as the command is being continuously executed.

In regards to **claim 195**, see discussion in claims 168. Ceasing of command is equivalent to overriding of command.

In regards to **claim 196**, see the discussion in claim 181. Although not specifically stated, it is notoriously well known in the video conferencing art to enable a user to choose a specific video output signal from a camera to be displayed. (Official Notice)

In regards to **claim 197**, see the discussion in claim 184.

In regards to **claim 198**, see the discussion in claim 179.

In regards to **claim 199**, see the discussion in claim 180.

In regards to **claim 200**, see the discussion in claim 177.

In regards to **claim 201**, see the discussion in claim 168 and 177. The operator may select not to override subsequent future commands which allow the other control device to resume issuing commands.

In regards to **claim 202**, see the discussion in claim 168.

In regards to **claim 203**, see the discussion in claim 168.

In regards to **claim 204**, see the discussion in claim 168.

9. Claims 191-192 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uehara '543 and Parker et al. '296, and in further view of Sano et al.

In regards to **claim 191**, Uehara '543 discloses the videoconference center for selectively transmitting several camera fields and associated audio. However, Uehara '543 does not explicitly disclose the use of a plurality of conference sites. Sano does disclose the use of three or more conference sites (Abstract). Allowing more participants to videoconference at one time would have been a desirable feature of the videoconference. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide multiple conference sites and control devices for the videoconference. See also the discussion in claims 110 and 135.

In regards to **claim 192**, see the discussion in claim 191.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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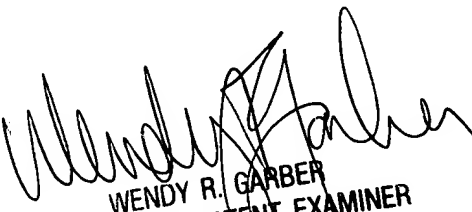
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacqueline Wilson whose telephone number is (703) 308-5080. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm (alternate Fridays off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JW
02/02/05


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600